



The
TROOPER

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Public Safety

August 2005



DPS Welcomes ...



**Motor
Carrier
Compliance
Division**

**81st
Trooper
School**





Colonel Bill Hitchens, Commissioner

Colonel's Corner

With the graduation last month of the 81st Georgia State Patrol Trooper School, 28 new troopers have been added to the battalion. These new troopers will help fill some of the vacancies we have across the state.

To the new troopers, please accept my sincere congratulations on your accomplishments. You have completed one of the most intense and best law enforcement training schools in the country. Your hard work and dedication will pay you dividends throughout your careers.

It has often been said that graduation from Trooper School is not the end of your training but the beginning. The weeks of instruction in Trooper School have provided you with the foundation for your law enforcement career. Now you must never forget the foundation you have been given and I challenge you to build on that training foundation each day. Never overlook an opportunity to sharpen your skills. And as you patrol each day – remember your training.

I am also pleased that the 82nd Trooper School will convene Monday, August 8 with 34 cadets. While we remain below the number of authorized troopers across the state, we are making strides to close the gap. In January, we will begin the 83rd Trooper School thanks to appropriations provided during the last session of the Georgia General Assembly.

As summer winds down, let me thank each member of the Department for the hard work you put forth each day. Your efforts, whether through enforcement or in a support role, are critical to our mission of service to the citizens of Georgia.

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A Message from the Lt. Colonel

The Department of Public Safety welcomes the men and women of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD). As you are aware, this enforcement unit transferred from the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) to DPS effective July 1, 2005 as a result of House Bill 501. MCCD is headed by Chief Law Enforcement Officer Mark McLeod and consists of over 250 P.O.S.T. certified positions and administrative support personnel assigned to 11 Regions and to DPS Headquarters.

MCCD reports directly to the Deputy Commissioner's Office and is responsible for enforcing commercial vehicle regulations, conducting truck inspections, operating the state's weigh stations, and enforcing the state's High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) law.

Although MCCD has transferred from DMVS to DPS, the transitioning process will not be finalized until September 2005. After September, all DMVS markings on vehicles, uniforms and badges will be revamped with the new MCCD logo.

Additional information about MCCD can be found on the DPS website under the Divisions and Offices section. Again, please join me in welcoming MCCD staff.



Lt. Colonel Arthur White

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division Joins DPS



On Monday, June 27, Governor Sonny Perdue administered the oath of office to 261 law enforcement officers who now form the newly-created Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) of the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS). The officers transferred from the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) to DPS effective on July 1, 2005. The transfer is a result of the passage of House Bill 501, a piece of Governor Perdue's 2005 legislative package.

"My intent with this legislation was to make customer service a top priority at DMVS and to assign other law enforcement duties where they most logically belong," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "I have complete confidence that the State Patrol will perform its new duties with the professionalism and skill for which the department is known."

The MCCD is responsible for enforcing commercial vehicle regulations, conducting truck inspections, operating the state's weigh stations, and enforcing the state's High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) law. Other tasks include inspecting diesel powered over-the-road vehicles for dyed fuel (indicating the use of "off-road" diesel), rendering assistance at crash scenes, providing aid in disasters, an aggressive public outreach program, and the annual inspection of over 16,000 public school buses in Georgia.

According to Colonel Bill Hitchens, Commander of the Georgia State Patrol and Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, the new unit will strengthen the Department's efforts to increase the safety on Georgia roads. "We welcome the new sworn officers and civilian support personnel and look forward to working as a team toward a common goal of safer motor vehicle travel in Georgia," he said.

Although the Motor Carrier Compliance Unit began operations under the DPS on July 1, during the transition DMVS markings on vehicles, uniforms and badges will remain until September 2005.



Chief Mark C. McLeod, MCCD Commanding Officer

Chief Mark C. McLeod is the Commanding Officer of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) with a staff consisting of approximately 250 P.O.S.T. certified positions and administrative support personnel. Chief McLeod embarked on his career with the State of Georgia in April of 1981, as an employee of the Department of Transportation, with his initial position of Equipment Operator within the Maintenance Division.

Chief McLeod transferred to the Enforcement Division of the Department of Transportation in March of 1982, thus launching his long-standing career in the field of law enforcement. Through his many years of employment with the Department of Transportation Law Enforcement Division, Chief McLeod expanded his career through the ranks of Trainee, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Major. In December of 1999, then Major McLeod was appointed to Colonel, the highest-ranking position within the Department of Transportation's Law Enforcement Division. With the formation of the DMVS by then Governor Roy Barnes, Colonel McLeod assumed the position of Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety's Law Enforcement Division.

Chief McLeod, a native of Thomaston, Ga., is a graduate of the Law Enforcement Training Center of Middle Georgia, the Georgia Association of Police Chief's Executive Training Class and a member in good standing with the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, Colonel McLeod serves on various law enforcement committees, and is active in numerous law enforcement organizations.

Around Georgia ...



Sr. Trooper Joe Milburn Passes

Senior Trooper Joe Milburn, #412 of Post 23, Brunswick died Wednesday, July 13, from a massive heart attack at his residence in Brunswick.

Milburn began his career with the Georgia State Patrol as a radio operator on July 16, 1987. He graduated from the 64th Trooper School in August 1989 starting his Trooper career at Post 11, Hinesville. From there he transferred to Post 35, Jekyll Island, Post 36, Douglas and eventually returned home to Post 23, Brunswick.

Milburn leaves behind a wife and two daughters.



Post 13, Tifton Celebrates the Opening of New Facility

Post 13, Tifton celebrated the opening of its new Post after residing at its former address for over 40 years (since 1961). The building was outdated and overcrowded forcing Retired Major Freddie Taylor (Troop H Commander at the time) and Captain Hiram Bemby (Lieutenant at the time) to approach the Tift County Commission to request assistance for a new facility.

Tift County Chairman Buddy Bryan was very instrumental in getting the project approved which is why the new Post was named after him. The Tift County Development Authority and The Tift County Airport Authority were also vital to the project. The new facility is equipped with a weight room, a large training room and a conference room. It has 10 offices and six bedrooms.

(l-r) Rep. from the Tift Co. Chamber of Commerce; Charlotte Bedell, Tift Co. Commission; Col. Hitchens, DPS Commissioner; SFC Rusty Harrelson, Post 13 Commander; Capt. Hiram Bemby, Troop H Commander; Buddy Bryan, Former Tift Co. Commission Chairman; Bob Reinhardt, Tift Co. Development Authority; Grady Thompson, Tift Co. Commission Chairman; Mayor Paul Johnson, City of Tifton; and Hugh Webb, Tift Co. Commission.

GSP Congratulates the 81st Trooper School

Auston J. Allen (Post 6, Gainesville)
Thomas F. Bailey (Post 17, Washington)
Shaun P. Browder (Post 46, Conyers)
David M. Bryant (Post 6, Gainesville)
Darryl A. Clark (Post 5, Dalton)
John K. Crews (Post 6, Gainesville)
Eddie J. Fortson (Post 46, Conyers)
Rodney M. Gardner (Post 5, Dalton)
James M. Green (Post 31, Valdosta)
Jamon A. Jones (Post 3, Cartersville)

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Michael T. Land (Post 4, Villa Rica)
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Richard M. Meeks (Post 46, Conyers)
Victor F. Mobley (Post 3, Cartersville)
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